THE DECLARATION OF THE Lords and Commons

In *Pa*rliament assembled,

Concerng His MAIESTIES severall Messages about the MILITIA.

With an Order of the Lords and Commons, touching the *Militia* of the Citie of *LONDON*.

Iovis 5. Maii. 1642.

Ordered by the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, that this Declaration shall be forthwith published and Printed.

Iohn. Browne Cleric.
Parliamentorum.

London, Printed for *I.T.* 1642.

DIE IOVIS, 5th. Maii. 1642.

THe Lords and Commons holding it neceſſary for the peace and ſafety of this Kingdome to ſettle the *Militia* thereof, did for that purpoſe prepare an Ordinance of Parliament, and withall humility did preſent the ſame to His Maieſty for his Royall aſſent. Who notwithſtanding the faithfull advice of His Parliament, and the ſeverall reaſons offered by them of the neceſſity thereof, for the ſecuring of His Maieſties Perſon, and the Peace and ſafety of his people, did refuſe to give His conſent, and thereupon they were neceſſitated, in diſcharge of the truſt repoſed in them as there preſentative body of the Kingdome, to make an Ordinance by Authority of both Houſes, to ſettle the *Militia*, warranted thereunto by the fundamentall Lawes of the Land. His Maieſtie taking notice thereof, did by ſeverall Meſſages invite them to ſettle the ſame by Act of Parliament, affirming in His Maieſties

Meſſage ſent in anſwer to the Petition of both Houſes preſented to his Maieſtie at *Yorke*, *March* 26. That hee alwaies thought it neceſſary the ſame ſhould bee ſetled, and that hee never denied the thing, onely denyed the way: and for the matter of it, tooke exceptions onely to the preface, as a thing not ſtanding with his Honour to conſent to, and that Himſelfe was excluded in the execution, and for a time unlimited: Whereupon the Lords & Commõs beeing deſirous to give his Maieſtie all ſatisfaction that might be, even to the leaſt tittle of forme, & circumſtance; and when his Maieſtie was pleaſed to offer them a Bill ready drawn, did for no other cauſe then to manifeſt their hearty affection to comply with his Maieſties deſires, & obtaine his conſent, entertaine the ſame, and in the meane time no way declining their Ordinance, and to expreſſe their earneſt zeale to coreſpond with His Maieſties deſire (in all thin s that might conſiſt with the peace and ſafety of the Kingdome, and the truſt repoſed in them) did paſſe that Bill, and therein omitted the preamble inſerted before the Ordinance, limited the time to leſſe then two yeares, and confined the authority of the Lieutenants to theſe three particulars, namely Rebellion, Inſurrection, and forraigne Invaſion, and returned the ſame to His Maieſtie for His royall aſſent. But all theſe expreſſions of affection and loyalty, all thoſe deſires and earneſt endeavours to comply with His Maieſtie, hath (to their great greife and ſorrow) produced no better effects

then

nen an absolute denyall, even of that which His Maiesty by His former Messages, as we conceive, had promised; the advice of evill and wicked counsels, receiving still more credit with Him, then that of His great Counsell of Parliament, in a matter of so high importance, that the safety of His Kingdome, and the peace of His people depends upon it.

But now what must be the exceptions to this Bill; not any sure, that was to the Ordinance; for a care was taken to give satisfaction in all these particulars: Then the exceptions was because that the disposing and execution thereof was refered to both Houses of Parliament, and His Majestie excluded: and now that by the Bill, the power and execution is assertained, and reduced to particulars and the Law of the Realme made the rule thereof, His Majestie will not trust the Persons. The power is too great, to unlimited to trust them with. But what is that power? Is it any other, but in expresse terms to suppresse Rebellion, Insurrection, and forraigne invasion; And who are those persons? are they not such as were nominated by the great Counsell of the Kingdome, and assented to by His Majesty. And is it too great a power to trust those persons with the suppression of Rebellion, Insurrection, and forraigne Invasion? surely the most wicked of them that advised His Majesty to this Answer cannot suggest, but that it is necessary for the safety of His Majesties Royall Person, and the peace of the

the Kingdome; ſuch a power ſhould be put in ſome hands. And there is no pretence of exception to the perſons. His Maieſty for the ſpace of above fifteene yeares together, thought not a power farre exceeding this to be too great to intruſt particular perſons with, to whoſe will the Lives and Liberties of His People by Martiall Lawes were made ſubiect, for ſuch was the power given to Lord Lievtenants, and Deputy Lievtenants in every County of this Kingdome, and that without the conſent of His people, or Authority of Law. But now in caſe of extreame neceſſity, upon the advice of both Houſes of Parliament for no longer ſpace then two yeares, a leſſer power, and that for the ſafety of King and People, Is thought too great to truſt particular perſons with, though named by both Houſes of PARLIAMENT, and aproved of by His Maieſty himſelfe And ſurely if there be a neceſſity to ſettle the *MILITIA* (which his Maieſty was pleaſed to confeſſe) the perſons cannot be intruſted with leſſe power then then this to have it all effectuall. And the Preſidents of former Ages when there hapned a neceſſity to raiſe ſuch a power, never ſtraightned that power to a narrower compaſſe, Witneſſe the Commiſſions of Array in ſeverall Kings Raignes, and often iſſued out by the conſent and Authority of Parliament. The Lords and Commons therefore intruſted with the ſafety of the Kingdome, and peace of the people, (which they call GOD to witneſſe is their onely Aime) finding themſel-

ves denied theſe their ſo neceſſary, and iuſt demands, and that they can never be diſcharged before God or Man if they ſhould ſuffer the ſafety of the Kingdome and peace of the people, to be expoſed to the malice of the Malignant party at Home, or the fury of Enemies from abroad. And knowing no other way to encounter the imminent and approching danger, but by putting the people into a fit poſture of defence, and doe reſolve to put their ſaid *Ordinance* in preſent Execution, and doe require all perſons in Authority, by vertue of the ſaid *Ordinance* forthwith to put the ſame in Execution, and all others to obey it, according to the fundamentall Lawes of the Kingdom in ſuch caſes, as they tender the upholding of the true Proteſtant Religion, the ſafety of His Maieſties Perſon, and His Royall Poſterity, the peace of the Kingdome, and the being of this Commonwealth.

Die

Die Martis 3. Maii.

1642.

ORdered by the Lords and commons in Parliament assembled: That the Persons intrusted with the ordering of the *Militia* of the Citie of *London*, shall have power to draw the Trained Bands of the Citty into such usuall and convenient places within three miles of the said City, as to them from time to time shall seeme fit, for the training and exercising of the Souldiers: And that the said Souldiers upon Summons shall from time to time appeare, and not depart from their Colours without the consent of their Officers, as they will Answer their contempt to the Parliament.

John Browne Cler. *Parliam.*

FINIS